

## CLAIM LISTING

1. (currently amended) A method for providing queue management and production device status in a distributed environment, comprising:

providing a queue configured to contain production data directed to each of a plurality of production devices;

placing first production data and second production data received from [[a]] one or more clients in [[a]] the queue, the first production data including first production options for a first target document identified by one of the one or more the clients, the second production data including second production options for a second target document identified by one of the one or more clients;

generating a queue interface having user accessible controls for managing the first and second production data held in the queue, the first production data to be delivered from the queue to a first one of a plurality of production devices and the second production data to be delivered from the queue to a second on the plurality of production devices ;

presenting the queue interface to the client;

generating a status interface for a chosen one of the first and second  
production device selected through the queue interface; and

presenting the status interface to the client.

2. (currently amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising managing the first and second production data in the queue in accordance with instructions entered through the queue interface.

3. (original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the acts of generating the queue and status interfaces comprise generating the queue and status interfaces each in the form of a web page.

4. (cancelled)

5. (currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the acts of generating and presenting the status interface for the chosen production devices comprise generating and presenting the status interface once the first or second production data is delivered to the chosen production device.

6. (original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the act of presenting the queue and status interfaces comprise generating and presenting a combined queue/status interface.

7. (original) The method of Claim 6 wherein:

the act of generating the queue interface comprises generating the queue interface in the form of a web page;

the act of generating the status interface comprises generating the status interface in the form of a web page; and

the act of generating the combined queue/status interface comprises generating the combined queue/status interface in the form of a framed web page.

8. (currently amended) A method for mediating access to production devices, comprising:

providing a queue configured to contain production data directed to each of a plurality of production devices;

acquiring an access request for a first production device ~~particular one of~~ [[a]] the plurality of production devices, the access request originating from a client;

presenting to the client a production interface for the ~~particular~~ first production device, the interface having user accessible controls for selecting first production data identifying a target document and one or more production options;

placing in a queue the first production data received from the client and selected through the production interface, the first production data being directed to the first production device ~~the queue capable of containing production data directed to more than one of the plurality of production devices;~~

placing in the queue second production data directed to a second production device of the plurality of production devices;

generating a queue interface having user accessible controls for managing the first and second production data in the queue;

presenting the queue interface to the client;

generating a status interface for a chosen one of the first and second production devices selected through the queue interface; and

presenting the status interface to the client.

9. (original) The method of Claim 8, wherein the acts of generating the queue and status interfaces comprise generating the queue and status interfaces each in the form of a web page.

10. (cancelled)

11. (currently amended) The method of Claim 8, wherein the acts of generating and presenting the status interface for the chosen production device comprise generating and presenting the status interface once the first or second production data is delivered to the chosen production device.

12. (original) The method of Claim 8, wherein the acts of generating and presenting the queue and status interfaces comprise generating and presenting a combined queue/status interface.

13. (original) The method of Claim 12 wherein:

the act of generating the queue interface comprises generating the queue interface in the form of a web page;

the act of generating the status interface comprises generating the status interface in the form of a web page; and

the act of generating the combined queue/status interface comprises generating the combined queue/status interface in the form of a framed web page.

14. (currently amended) A computer program product for providing queue management and production device status in a distributed environment, the product

comprising a computer useable medium having computer readable instructions thereon for:

providing a queue configured to contain production data directed to each of a plurality of production devices;

placing first production data and second production data received from [[a]] one or more clients in [[a]] the queue, the first production data including first production options for a first target document identified by one of the one or more the clients, the second production data including second production options for a second target document identified by one of the one or more clients;

generating a queue interface having user accessible controls for managing the first and second production data held in the queue, the first production data to be delivered from the queue to a first one of a plurality of production devices and the second production data to be delivered from the queue to a second on the plurality of production devices ;

presenting the queue interface to the client;

generating a status interface for a chosen one of the first and second  
production device selected through the queue interface; and

presenting the status interface to the client.

15. (original) The product of Claim 14, further comprising instructions for managing the first and second production data in the queue in accordance with instructions entered through the queue interface.

16. (cancelled)

17. (currently amended) The product of Claim 14, wherein the instructions for generating and presenting the status interface for the chosen production device comprise instructions for generating and presenting the status interface once the first or second production data is delivered to the chosen production device.

18. (original) The product of Claim 14, wherein the instructions for presenting the queue and status interfaces comprise instructions for generating and presenting a combined queue/status interface.

19. (original) The product of Claim 18 wherein:

the instructions for generating the queue interface comprise instructions for generating a queue interface in the form of a web page;

the instructions for generating the status interface comprise instructions for generating the status interface in the form of a web page; and

the instructions for generating the combined queue/status interface comprises generating the combined queue/status interface in the form of a framed web page.

20. (currently amended) A computer program product for mediating access to production devices, the product comprising a computer useable medium having computer readable instructions thereon for:

providing a queue configured to contain production data directed to each of a plurality of production devices;

acquiring an access request for a first production device ~~particular one of~~ [[a]] the plurality of production devices, the access request originating from a client;

presenting to the client a production interface for the ~~particular~~ first production device, the interface having user accessible controls for selecting first production data identifying a target document and one or more production options;

placing in a queue the first production data received from the client and selected through the production interface, the first production data being directed to the first production device ~~the queue capable of containing production data directed to more than one of the plurality of production devices;~~

placing in the queue second production data directed to a second production device of the plurality of production devices;

generating a queue interface having user accessible controls for managing the first and second production data in the queue;

presenting the queue interface to the client;

generating a status interface for a chosen one of the first and second production devices selected through the queue interface; and  
presenting the status interface to the client.

21. (original) The product of Claim 20, wherein the instructions for generating the queue and status interfaces comprise instructions for generating the queue and status interfaces each in the form of a web page.

22. (cancelled)

23. (original) The product of Claim 20, wherein the instructions for generating and presenting the status interface for the chosen production device comprise instructions for generating and presenting the status interface once the first or second production data is delivered to the chosen production device.

24. (previously presented) The product of Claim 20, wherein the instructions for generating and presenting the queue and status interfaces comprise instructions for generating and presenting a combined queue/status interface.

25. (original) The product of Claim 24 wherein:  
the instructions for generating the queue interface comprise instructions for generating the queue interface in the form of a web page;  
the instructions for generating the status interface comprise instructions for generating the status interface in the form of a web page; and  
the instructions for generating the combined queue/status interface comprise instructions for generating the combined queue/status interface in the form of a framed web page.

26. (currently amended) In a computer network, a system for providing queue management and production device status, the system comprising:

a plurality of one or more production devices, each production device having a production server operable to generate a status interface for the particular production device;

a client operable to display a user interface;

a mediation service in electronic communication with the client and the production ~~device or~~ devices, the mediation service operable to place first and second production data received from the client in a queue, the first production data being directed to a first production device of the plurality of production devices and including first production options for a first target document identified by the client, the second production data being directed to a second production device of the plurality of production devices and including second production options for a second target document identified by the client, generate a queue interface having user accessible controls for managing the first and second production data ~~to be delivered to one or more of the production devices and~~ held in the queue, present the queue interface to the client, and present to the client the status interface for a ~~particular~~ chosen one of the first and second production devices selected through the queue interface.

27. (currently amended) The system of Claim 26, wherein the mediation service includes a queue manager operable to manage the first and second production data in the queue in accordance with instructions provided through the queue interface.

28. (currently amended) The system of Claim 26, wherein the mediation service includes an interface generator operable to present to the client the status interface for the ~~particular~~ chosen production device selected through the queue interface.

29. (original) The system of Claim 28, wherein the interface generator is further operable to generate and present the queue and status interfaces in the form of a combined queue/status interface.

30. (original) The system of Claim 29, wherein:

at least one of the production servers includes a web server operable to generate the status queue in the form of a web page associated with a first network address; and

the interface generator of the mediation service functions, at least in part, as a web server operable to generate the queue interface in the form of a web page associated with a second network address and to present the combined queue/status interface in the form of a framed web page having a first frame referencing the first network address and a second frame referencing the second network address.

31. (currently amended) The system of Claim 26, further comprising an interface generator operable to present to the client the status interface for [[a]] the chosen production device once production data is delivered from the queue to that device.

32. (currently amended) In a computer network, a system for providing queue management and production device status, the system comprising:

a plurality of one or more production devices each having a production server operable to generate a status interface and manage production of a target document;

a client operable to issue an access request for a first production device of the plurality of production devices ~~selected production device~~ and to display one or more interfaces;

a queue for storing production data directed to each of the plurality of production devices;

an interface conduit in electronic communication with the client and the production server or servers, the interface conduit operable to acquire the access request originating from the client, present to the client a production interface for the production device to which the request is directed, ~~and~~ to place in the queue first production data received from the client and selected through the production interface, and to place in the queue second production data, the first production data



being directed to the first production device and the second production data being directed to a second production device of the plurality of production devices;

a queue manager operable to deliver the first and second production data from the queue to the production server for the production device to which that production data is to be delivered; and

an interface generator operable to generate and present to the client a queue interface and to present to the client the status interface for a ~~particular~~ chosen one of the first and second production devices selected through the queue interface.

33. (cancelled)

34. (original) The system of Claim 33 wherein the interface generator is further operable to present the queue and status interfaces in the form of a combined queue/status interface.

35. (original) The system of Claim 34, wherein:

the interface generator and at least one of the production servers each function, at least in part, as a web server;

the production server being further operable to generate the status interface in the form of a web page associated with a first network address; and

the interface generator being further operable to generate the queue interface in the form of a web page associated with a second network address and to present the combined queue/status interface in the form of a framed web page referencing the first and second network addresses.

36. (currently amended) The system of Claim 32, wherein the interface generator is further operable to present the status interface for ~~that~~ the chosen production device once ~~that~~ the first or second production data is delivered to the chosen production device.

37. (original) The system of Claim 36, wherein:

the interface generator and at least one of the production servers function at least in part as web servers;

the production server being further operable to generate the status interface in the form of a first web page; and

the interface generator being further operable to generate the queue interface in the form of a second web page.

38. (original) The system of Claim 32, wherein the queue manager is further operable to manage production data in the queue in accordance with instructions provided through the queue interface.